

AVSO "Expert seminar on the exchange of information and best practice in working with the EU youth programme"

Brussels, 3-6 July 2007

Participants' wish list – Action 1

CHALLENGES	PROPOSALS/NEEDS/REMARKS
1) The NAs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Need to know the priorities of the NAs (e.g. bi-lateral or multi-lateral exchanges, ...) ★ Applications evaluated by 1 NA, better if the NA of the country where the project is hosted ★ 1 Applicant organisation
2) Co-financing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Need for clear guidelines in each country (e.g. what in kind costs are allowed, how to justify the expenses, ...)
3) Application forms - Applications written by young people are highly appreciated by the NAs, but they are too difficult for them. - Difficult to write the Applications without the partners and the participants and to keep in touch with them (especially huge groups) - Difficult to recruit and motivate the participants – the young people don't see the point, lack of interest - Hard to involve young people in the whole process (especially for the follow-up) - Difficult the management of the budget of the Action 1.2. (need for budget categories) - Conflicting rules (NAs and EACEA apply different criteria)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Lack of technical assistance: The NAs should cover coaching costs for all young people (at least for people at the 1st experience), not only for young people with fewer opportunities or under 18 – Action 1.2 ★ Need to monitor the quality of these projects: who and how? ★ Need to train the leaders (often they lack of knowledge and experience) - Action 1.1 ★ Why public bodies not eligible for Action 1.2? ★ Multi-measures applications should be more flexible (e.g. if the activities are linked, the organisation should have the opportunity to modify the second activity planned according to the outcomes of the first activity) ★ Better to define a core group ★ Use Drupal/Google doc or other systems for sharing information and applications ★ Improve communication with the NAs and with the partners and the participants

Participants' wish list – Action 2

CHALLENGES	PROPOSALS/NEEDS/REMARKS
<p>1) The National Agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of coordination between the NAs - Each NA interprets the users Guide in a different way generating confusion - NA's role: merely administrative or also supporting? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ More transparency (e.g. the selection procedures of the applications; the NA's priorities, ...) ★ More guidelines from the NAs (e.g. division of the grant between the organisations, charge of bank transfer, the insurance ...) ★ Common guidelines for evaluation of the projects ★ Use "Youthnetworks" to post templates and other info useful to understand the NA's priorities/criteria and to fill the Application forms ★ More and better communication/cooperation between stakeholders (between the NAs and between the NAs and the organisations) ★ After each deadline information/statistics about available funding, nr. of volunteers
<p>2) Conflicts between the NAs and the applicants or between the partners in a project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Setting up of the institution of an "Ombudsman" to handle conflict situations, mediation as a single reference point for problems
<p>3) Compulsory trainings of the NAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Short term EVS trainings? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Need for fixed frequent trainings ★ Evaluation of the trainings' standards ★ Need for trainings at EU/centralised level (for applications at EACEA) ★ Organisations/mentors should be able to participate at the NA training to establish relationships with the volunteers ★ Large organisations want to be accredited training organisations to train their volunteers
<p>3) Application forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Too complicated and time-consuming (especially for the small organisations) - Too detailed Applications limit the flexibility of the project - Limits in the choice of the volunteer as her/his sending organisation has to be a partner organisation - What is the legal implication of the Activity agreement - with support from the NAs? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Make 2 different Application forms: one for Group EVS and another one for Individual EVS ★ Need for more flexibility to adapt the project to the volunteer (from the time the organisation writes the HEI to the reality when the volunteer starts his/her experience a lot of things change) ★ Provide templates ★ Clarify financial guarantees, compensation ★ Look into how does it work in other programmes (Leonardo da Vinci...etc)? ★ Efforts towards standardization on national level with the vision towards a single Activity agreement form for all at European level ★ Flexibility (e.g. draft the Programme and define it at the APV)
<p>4) One-sided funding</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reinstate 70% - 30% funding rule (for projects under 25.000 EUR) ★ Practical solutions (exchange of best-practice) for financial transactions ★ Need for guidelines/templates (better if common to all the countries) ★ Clarification on who should get the coordination

	<p>costs (per volunteer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Organisation with the money finances the travel ★ Guidelines as to which country to submit the application - regular statistical up-dates on available funding ★ Information about the available budget after each deadline and at the beginning of the year ★ Statistics made available of the flux of volunteers
5) Evaluation and monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Need for more and more constant evaluation and monitoring
6) Inclusion of young people with fewer opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Definition of inclusion and of “people with fewer opportunities” ★ Open the Advance Planning Visit to all EVS projects ★ Difficult to get disadvantaged young people because of how long the process takes
7) EVS volunteers’ allowance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Need to subsidize the allowance
8) How to formalise the partnerships: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal status - Activity agreement - Management of the payments - Who will guarantee - What is the priority: the organisation or the volunteer? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ User-friendly templates ★ Legal clause/explanation ★ Financial guarantee ★ Reimbursement, compensation (dédommagement) ★ Group activity template ★ Payment guidelines (e.g. what if the organisation with the money delays the payments to the partners?)
9) EVS Database	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Need for updating
11) Language of the application	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Language of the application (national + English/ common working language). In terms of partnership, it would be possible for each of the partners to read the application in a language he/she understands ★ Clearer definitions and guidelines through concrete examples for what is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visibility, valorisation - Follow-up - European awareness
12) Awareness about frequent air travel implications (of the participants to the Activities) on the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Eco-friendly actions (e.g. buy a tree, ...)

Participants' wish list – General

GENERAL PROPOSALS/NEEDS/REMARKS
<p>1) Possible uses of www.youthnetworks.eu:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bulleting board for NAs - Feedback/comments on organisations and/or hosting project - Exchange of practice between organisations - Possibility to post templates (e.g. Activity agreement)
<p>2) Taking the YinA Programme more seriously Other EU programmes in the field of education and training seem to be more respected and taken more seriously</p>
<p>3) Local promotion (with NAs) maybe in schools Lack of interest and/or awareness of young people about the possibilities of the Youth in Action programme make it a challenge to recruit participants for YiA activities. Need for Road-show on national level by the National Agencies (like in other programmes) and more information to the young people, perhaps at schools</p>
<p>4) Multipliers Former EVS volunteers and former participants of YiA projects could be the multipliers of the programme by promoting the results and the processes of their projects to new target groups.</p>
<p>5) Technical assistance More technical assistance would be needed from the National Agencies, like they do in other EAC programmes, like application writing seminars, partnership building fairs, readiness and availability to answer questions in the application writing phase. Also more support would be appreciated during the management of the projects.</p>
<p>6) Write applications jointly If the different partners within the project would write the applications together, also very much involving the young people themselves, we could ensure that the projects (mostly Youth exchanges, but also EVS) is better tailored to the needs and the interests of the young people, and perhaps it will be thus less difficult to recruit participants for the activities.</p>
<p>7) Visa issue Make more pressure at European level on the States (e.g. National States could create a separate legal bases for obtaining visa/residence permits for participants to projects in the frame of the Youth in Action Programme and other European programs)</p>